a surface of a core metal produced from a metallic salt, a metallic oxide, or a metallic hydroxide and having a particle diameter of 1 to 100 nm is covered with an organic compound including a functional group having chemisorption capability onto said surface of said core metal, and

that said particle is a reaction product of the metallic salt, the metallic oxide, or the metallic hydroxide with the organic compound.

13. (amended) A composite metallic ultrafine particle having a structure in which a periphery of core metal having a diameter of 1 to 100 nm is surrounded by an organic compound including an alcoholic hydroxyl group, and that said particle is obtained by heating an organic compound including an alcoholic hydroxyl group and a metallic salt as a metal source at a temperature that is not more than a decomposition initiation temperature of said organic compound including an alcoholic hydroxyl group and is not less than a decomposition temperature of said metallic salt.

Add the following new claims:

41. (new) A composite metallic ultrafine particle characterized in that a surface of a core metal produced from a metallic salt, a metallic oxide, or a metallic hydroxide and having a particle diameter of 1 to 100 nm is covered with an

organic compound including a functional group having chemisorption capability onto said surface of said core metal, and that said particle is obtained by mixing the metallic salt, the metallic oxide, or the metallic hydroxide with the organic compound and adding a reducing agent.

42. (new) A composite metallic ultrafine particle characterized in that a surface of a core metal produced from a metal source and having a particle diameter of 1 to 100 nm is covered with an organic compound including a functional group having chemisorption capability onto said surface of said core metal, and that said particles is obtained by:

dissolving or dispersing said metal source in a hydrophilic nonaqueous solvent to prepare a solution for composite metallic ultrafine particles;

adding, to a hydrophobic nonaqueous solvent, an organic compound including a functional group having chemisorption capability onto said surface of said core metal produced from said metal source, and said solution for composite metallic ultrafine particles to prepare a precursor of ultrafine particles; and

adding a reducing agent to reduce said precursor of ultrafine particles.

43. (new) A composite metallic ultrafine particle, comprising:

a core metal made of a metal, and

and organic compound covering a surface of the core metal;

wherein a diameter of the particle is in the range of 1 to 100 nm, and

the particle is obtained by

mixing a metallic salt, a metallic oxide, or a metallic hydroxide of the metal with the organic compound and heating the mixture for reaction.

44. (new) A composite metallic ultrafine particle according to claim 42, wherein the organic compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the core metal.

45. (new) A composite metallic ultrafine particle, comprising:

a core metal made of a metal, and

an organic compound which is chemically bonded to the surface of the core metal;

wherein a diameter of the particle is in the range of 1 to 100 nm.